

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SCA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6436

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9629

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO PROTEST NIGERIAN TRAVEL BAN

1. ON BEHALF OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, CZECH AMBASSADOR IN ROLE OF DEAN OF CORPS WILL CALL ON MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 TO STATE CONCERN AND DISPLEASURE OF CORPS OVER CONTINUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL BAN. BAN HAS EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED BOTH OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL OF DIPLOMATS SINCE ATTEMPTED COUP IN MID-FEBRUARY. IF DEAN FAILS TO ELICIT SATISFACTORY ANSWER (I.E., ENUNCIATION OF SPECIFIC TIME IN NEAR FUTURE WHEN BAN WILL BE LIFTED) GENERAL MEETING OF CORPS WILL BE CALLED TO DISCUSS MORE CONVINCING PROTEST MEASURES.

2. IN EFFORT ORGANIZE COMMON FRONT, CHARGE IN PAST WEEK HAS HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH MISSION CHIEFS OF AUSTRIA, CANADA, UK, BRAZIL, JAPAN, GERMANY, ITALY. ALL AGREE THAT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN, LOOK UPON STEP AS PREVENTATIVE MEASURE, ARE LINING UP OTHER MISSIONS TO PRESENT UNIFIED VOICE. COMMON VIEW IS THAT GAP BETWEEN CORPS AND GOVERNMENT LARGELY CAUSED BY INERT COMMUNIST DEAN, IS GROWING WITH CONSEQUENCE THAT FMG LOOKS ON DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AS ISOLATED GROUPS OF FOREIGNERS WHO INCAPABLE JOINT THINKING OR ACTION.

3. GERMAN AMBASSADOR ORDERED BY BONN TO PRESENT OFFICIAL PROTEST RE VIOLATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION, BUT EEC COLLEAGUES HAVE PERSUADED HIM TO SUBSTITUTE GROUP ACTION FOR UNILATERAL

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MEASURE. AFRICAN EMBASSIES REPORTEDLY MOST AROUSED OVER

BAN. MAJORITY OF CORPS MEMBERS DO NOT TRUST CZECH DEAN,
BUT PROPOSAL THAT ITALIAN VICE DEAN ACCOMPANY HIM ON GARBA
CALL POLITELY TURNED DOWN BY CZECH.
CAHILL

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